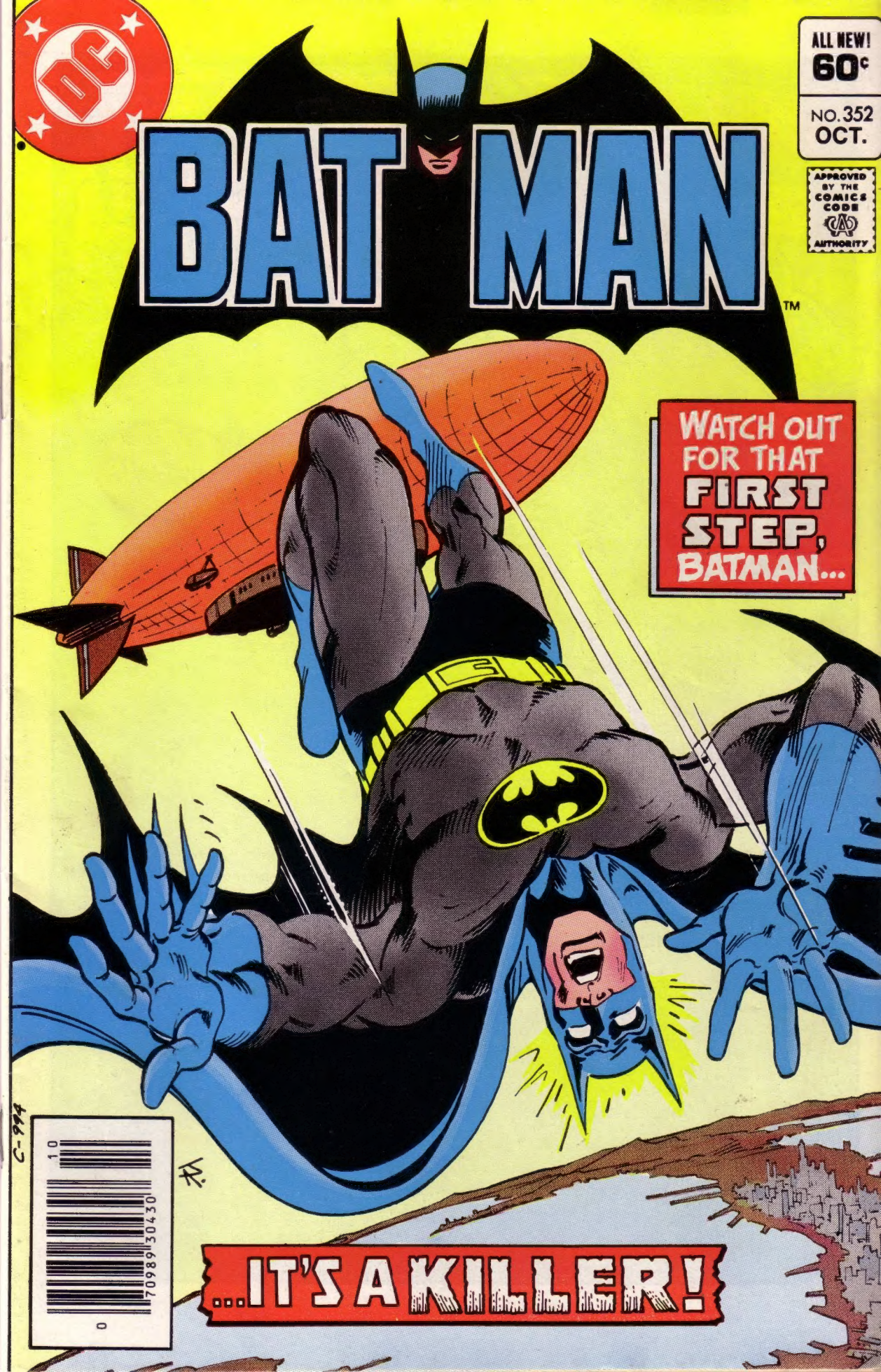
ALL NEW!
60¢
NO. 352
OCT.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
TM
WATCH OUT FOR THAT FIRST STEP, BATMAN...
...IT'S A KILLER!
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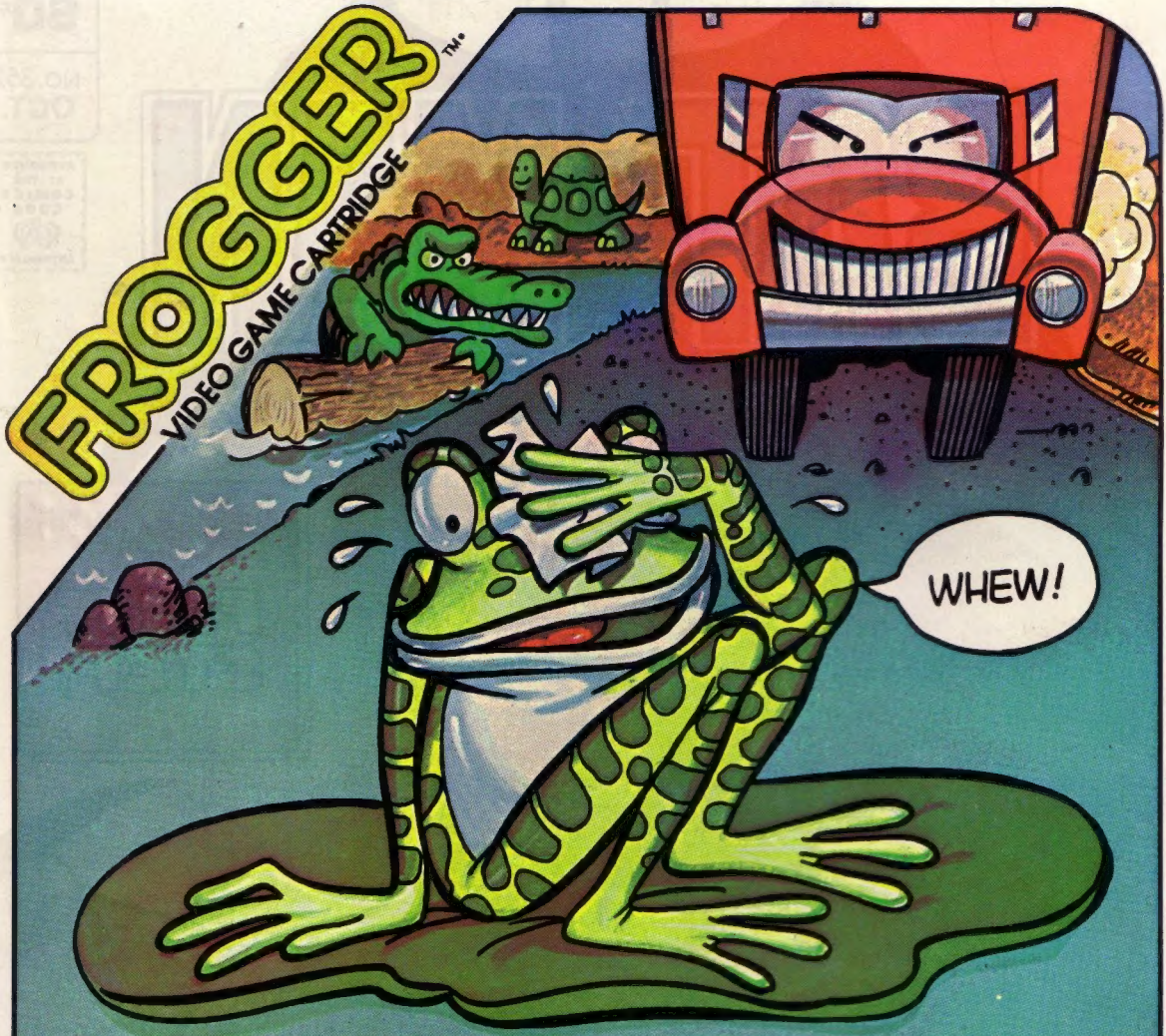

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PARKER BROTHERS

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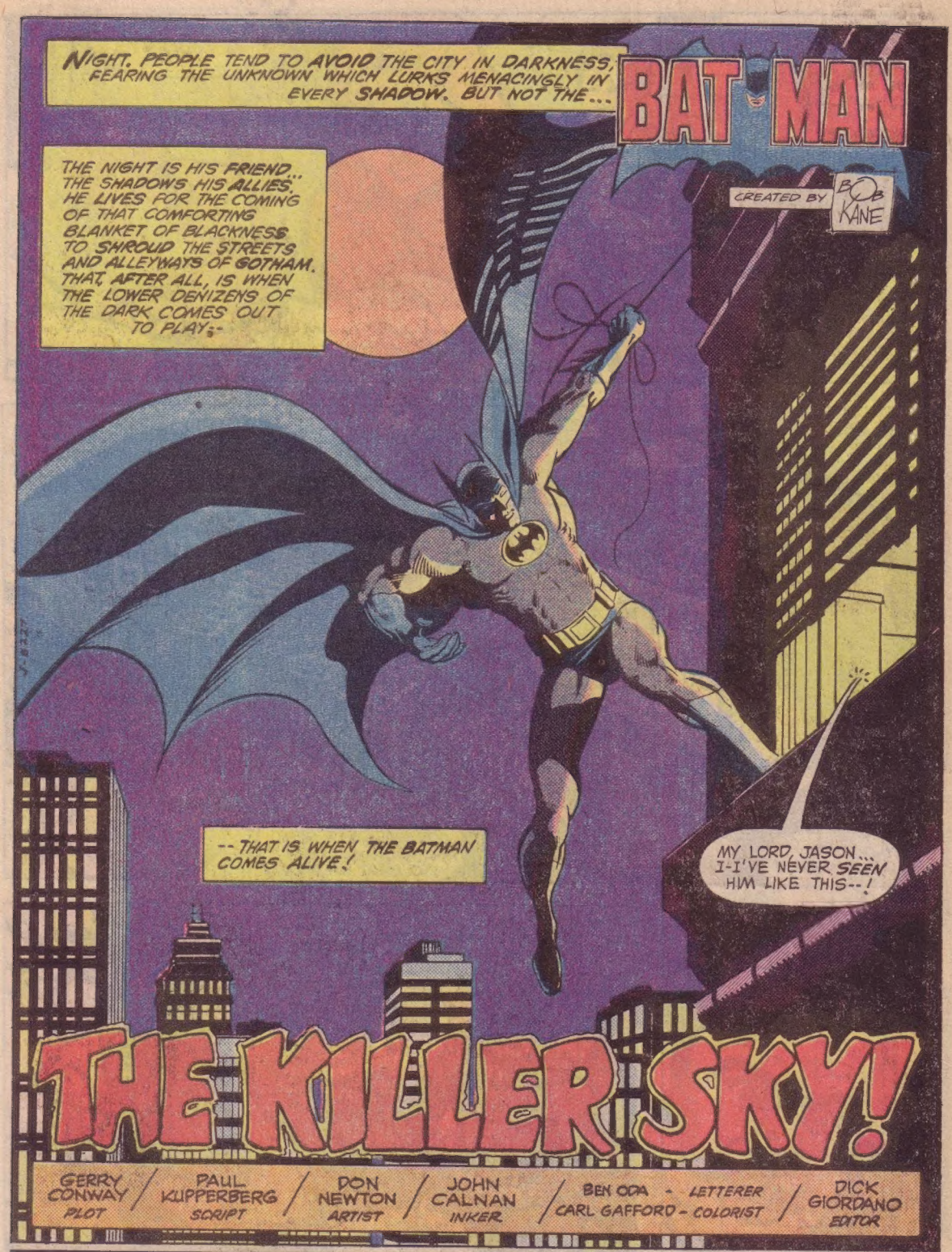
NIGHT. PEOPLE TEND TO AVOID THE CITY IN DARKNESS, FEARING THE UNKNOWN WHICH LURKS MENACINGLY IN EVERY SHADOW. BUT NOT THE...
BAT MAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
THE NIGHT IS HIS FRIEND... THE SHADOWS HIS ALLIES. HE LIVES FOR THE COMING OF THAT COMFORTING BLANKET OF BLACKNESS TO SHROUD THE STREETS AND ALLEYWAYS OF GOTHAM. THAT, AFTER ALL, IS WHEN THE LOWER DENIZENS OF THE DARK COMES OUT TO PLAY--
--THAT IS WHEN THE BATMAN COMES ALIVE!
MY LORD, JASON... I-I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS--!
THE KILLER SKY!
GERRY CONWAY PLOT
PAUL KUPPERBERG SCRIPT
DON NEWTON ARTIST
JOHN CALNAN INKER
BEN ODA - LETTERER
CARL GAFFORD - COLORIST
DICK GIORDANO EDITOR

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MAYBE... MAYBE DAD SHOULD'VE LEFT WELL ENOUGH ALONE! HE'S GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS COPS AND ROBBERS GAME. IT'S NOT WORTH THIS.
NO... I- I GUESS HE COULDN'T...
IT IS TO HIM, BARBARA. JAMES W. GORDON HAS BEEN A COP ALL HIS LIFE... I DON'T THINK HE COULD'VE LIVED WITH HIMSELF IF HE LET THE NEW MAYOR AND POLICE COMMISSIONER RUN ROUGHSHOD OVER GOTHAM.
DEAR LORD, JIM--!
WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU, OLD FRIEND?
GOOD EVENING, MS. GORDON, MR. BARD. I TRUST ALL IS WELL WITH THE PATIENT--?
COOL IT, BARBARA! THIS ISN'T THE PLACE FOR IT.
PAULING...? AND McCLOKSKY! GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE! HAVEN'T YOU CAUSED MY FATHER ENOUGH GRIEF WITHOUT...
DAMN IT, JASON--OUR NEW COMMISSIONER SENT HIS GOON McCLOSKY TO BEAT UP DAD!
NOT ONE FOR BEATING AROUND THE BUSH, ARE YOU, MS. GORDON? THEN I'LL BE JUST AS BLUNT: THE MAYOR AND I WANT YOU TO DROP YOUR INVESTIGATION OR THIS COULD HAPPEN AGAIN--
--ONLY WORSE!
YEAH! I'M ONLY SORRY I HAD TO STOP WHEN I DID, GORDON!
FOR MY MONEY, YOU CAN KEEP RIGHT ON INVESTIGATING--UNTIL THEY SIC ME ON YOU AGAIN!
YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THAT UNIFORM, McCLOKSKY ...NOT TO MENTION THE HUMAN RACE!
T-THE BATMAN!
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO WARN YOU BOTH--IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO JAMES GORDON, I'LL COME AFTER YOU, PAULING--
--AND I ASSURE YOU, I'LL GET YOU!
Y-YOU CAN'T TALK TO ME LIKE THAT, BATMAN... I'M POLICE COMMISSIONER NOW AND...
2

SAVE IT FOR THE TV CAMERAS, PAULING! I'M NOT IMPRESSED!
YOU WILL BE, BATMAN! I CAN PULL GORDON'S P.I. LICENSE AND PUT HIM OUT OF COMMISSION--
-- BUT THERE ARE OTHER METHODS FOR DEALING WITH MASKED VIGILANTES WHO THINK THEMSELVES OUTSIDE THE LAW! LET'S GO, OFFICER!
620
Y-YESSIR, COMMISSIONER!

COMMISSIONER PAULING! DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON YOUR PREDECESSOR'S CONDITION?
WELL, I'M NOT A DOCTOR, MISS, SO I WOULDN'T VENTURE AN OPINION THERE--
--BUT SPEAKING FOR THE GOTHAM P.D., I CAN SAY THAT WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN ON THIS CASE--

--AND WE EXPECT A SWIFT AND SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE JAMES GORDON SITUATION!
THE BATMAN NOTWITHSTANDING, DAMN HIM!

MEANWHILE...
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, OLD FRIEND?
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, NOT BAD, BATMAN. AND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT, JUST THEN!
PAULING TOOK A BIG RISK COMING HERE LIKE HE DID-- WHICH MEANS WE'VE GOT HIM AND MAYOR HILL RUNNING SCARED!

WE KNOW IT WAS THEIR POLITICAL MACHINE THAT SET UP HILL'S OPPONENT REEVES WITH THOSE PHONY PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOU DURING THE ELECTION TO DISCREDIT THE OPPOSITION AND INSURE THEIR WINNING.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE LACK ONE THING... PROOF!
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO, JAMES...

FRANKLY, I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT.
JASON AND I'VE GONE AS FAR AS WE CAN ON THIS, OLD FRIEND. NOW, WE NEED HELP...!
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK--

--COMMISSIONER!
3

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC...
SEE ANYTHING, SEAMAN?
NEGATIVE, CAP'N! PLACE IS QUIETER'N A SALOON ON CHRISTMAS EVE!
SURPRISE, SURPRISE, EH? AS IF MANEUVERS WEREN'T BORING ENOUGH WITHOUT THIS PEASOUP FOG TO BRING EVERYTHING TO A STANDSTILL!
ER...BETTER SCRATCH THAT THOUGHT, SIR! RADAR'S PICKING UP SOMETHING HOMING IN ON US AT 150 FEET... SOMETHING BIG COMING IN AWFULLY SLOW!
DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ANY AIRCRAFT I KNOW OF--! BESIDES, WE'D HAVE HEARD ITS ENGINES BY NOW...
WAIT!
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES--? I-I THINK I'VE BEEN SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME UNDERWATER! AM I GOING CRAZY--
--OR IS THAT A ZEPPELIN--?!
572
SURE LOOKS THAT WAY TO ME, CAP'N! BUT WHAT WOULD ONE OF THEM THINGS BE DOIN' ALL THE WAY OUT HERE...? IT AIN'T LIKE THEY DECIDED TO PLAY THE SUPER BOWL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ATLANTIC...
THEY MOST CERTAINLY HAVEN'T, SEAMAN. IN FACT, THIS MOST ANACHRONISTIC AIRCRAFT HAS A FAR MORE SINISTER PURPOSE THAN THE TELECASTING OF A SPORTS EVENT...
ALMOST IN POSITION, SIR!
EXCELLENT! PREPARE ALL SYSTEMS!
4

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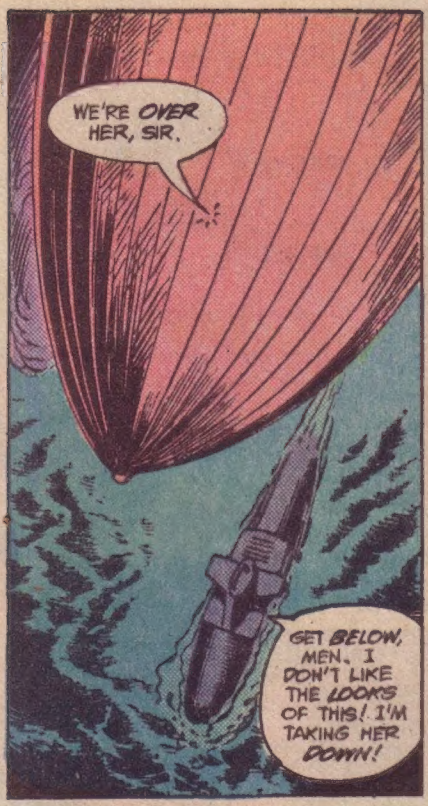

WE'RE OVER HER, SIR.
GET BELOW, MEN. I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS! I'M TAKING HER DOWN!

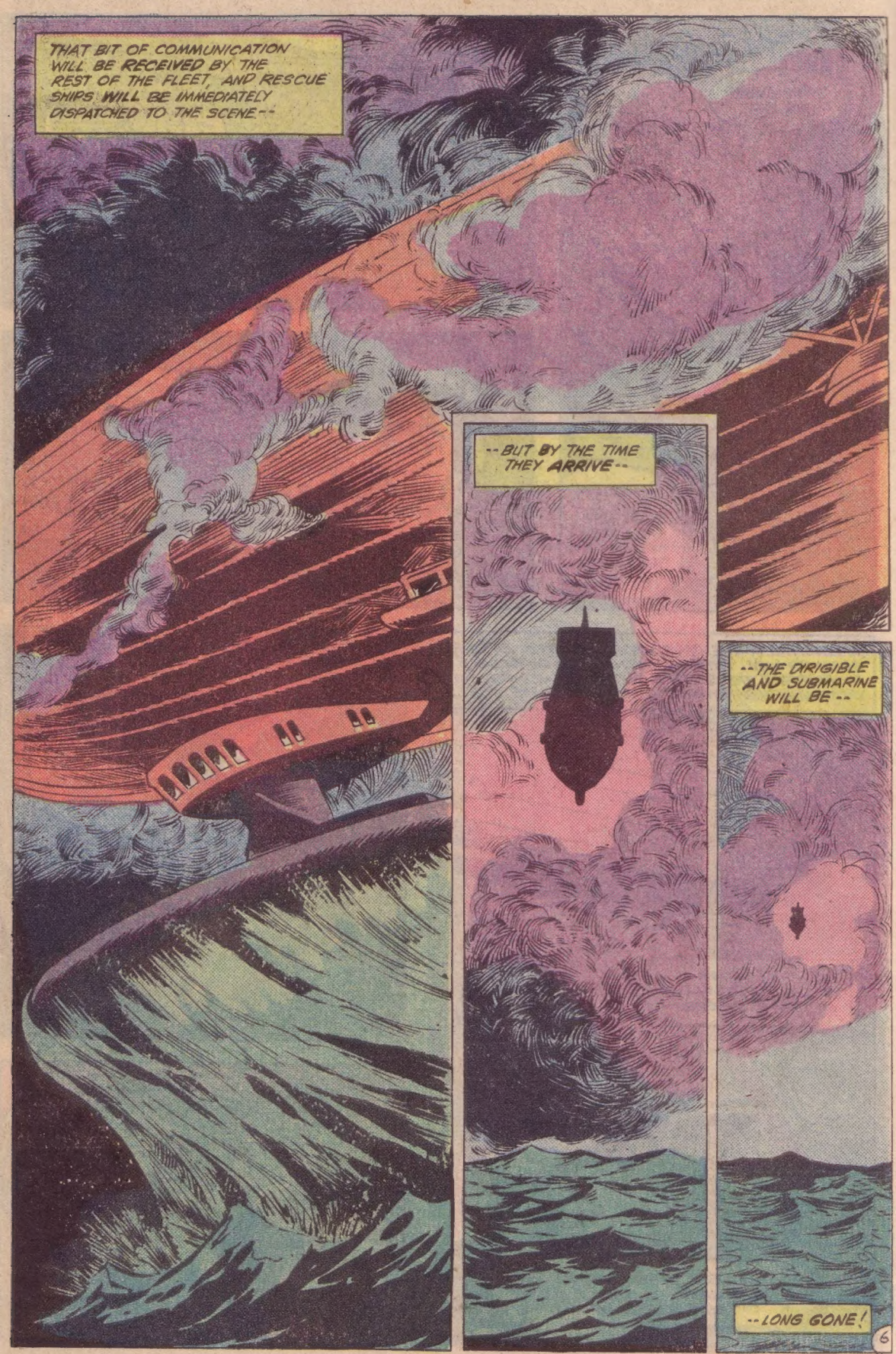
VERY WELL, SIMPSON--

--LET'S BRING HER UP!

SOMEWHERE IN THE DENSE FOG, POWERFUL ENGINES BEGIN TO HUM. WITHIN MOMENTS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PINPOINT THE SOURCE OF THE ENGINES FOR THE DEAFENING HIGH-PITCHED WHINE FILLING THE NIGHT.
AND AS IT GROWS LOUDER, THE SUBMARINE BEGINS TO SHUDDER--
--AND RISE SLOWLY INTO THE GRAY NIGHT AIR IN THE GRIP OF MIGHTY MAGNETIC WAVES!

HOL-LEE...! THE HELMSMAN MUST BE LOSING HIS TOUCH. WE AIN'T NEVER GONE DOWN THIS ROUGH!
WHAT GOIN' DOWN, MAN? CAN'T YOU FEEL IT... WE'RE GOIN' UP!

ENSIGN! RADIO A MAYDAY! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
A-AYE-AYE, SIR!
5


THAT BIT OF COMMUNICATION WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE REST OF THE FLEET, AND RESCUE SHIPS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHED TO THE SCENE--
--BUT BY THE TIME THEY ARRIVE--
--THE DIRIGIBLE AND SUBMARINE WILL BE --
--LONG GONE!

WAYNE MANOR OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY...
IT'S BEEN QUITE A NIGHT, ALFRED. YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE ANYTHING IN THAT KITCHEN OF YOURS FOR A STARVING MAN, WOULD YOU?
CERTAINLY, MASTER BRUCE! I'LL FETCH SOMETHING IMMEDIATELY!
BUT, ER, SIR ...IF I MIGHT FIRST TAKE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME--?
I-I KNOW IT WAS TERRIBLY PRESUMPTUOUS OF ME TO HIRE CHRISTOPHER CHANCE TO IMPERSONATE YOU--
--BUT I DID IT IN ORDER TO DISCREDIT MS. VALE'S PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF YOUR ALTER EGO, SIR--
--AND THUS SAFEGUARD YOUR SECRET, MASTER BRUCE.
IT WOULD NEVER DO TO HAVE THE WORLD KNOW THAT BRUCE WAYNE AND BATMAN ARE ONE AND THE SAME INDIVIDUAL...
...AND...AND OF COURSE, I DID NOT WISH TO BURDEN YOU WITH THE PROBLEM. I FELT CERTAIN I COULD HANDLE IT, SIR. I DO HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.
NOT ONLY DO I UNDERSTAND ...I APPRECIATE IT, ALFRED.
I AM SO RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT, SIR! I DO HOPE YOU...
OH, THE FRONT DOOR, MASTER BRUCE--?
ON MY WAY OUT OF SIGHT!
HELLO, DICK.
YOU SEEM CHIPPER, BRUCE. I TAKE IT YOU HAD A GOOD NIGHT...?
7

YES, MAY I HEL ... ULP!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ALFRED -- I CATCH YOU PILFERING THE VAULTS?
M-MASTER BRUCE?! B-BUT IT SIMPLY CAN'T BE.
AND IT ISN'T, ALFRED.
THOUGH ONE CAN NEVER BE TOO CERTAIN WHEN ONE IS DEALING WITH --THE HUMAN TARGET!
CHRISTOPHER CHANCE! I SHOULD'VE GUESSED!
DEAR ME! YOU GAVE ME QUITE A FRIGHT, MR. CHANCE!
SCARING THE HIRED HELP, CHANCE OLD BOY? TERRIBLY BAD FORM, DON'T YOU KNOW.
REGARDLESS, I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP IN THIS OTHERWISE ... ER EMBARRASSING SITUATION. YOU'VE SAVED ME NO END OF AGGRAVATION.
BRO-THER! BRUCE'S LAYING ON THE BORED-PLAYBOY NUMBER WITH A TROWEL!
OH, PAY THE MAN, WON'T YOU, ALFRED? THAT'S A GOOD FELLOW!
ER... CERTAINLY, SIR.
MY, MASTER BRUCE SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING THIS!
IF YOU WANT MY OPINION, THAT POMPOUS CLOWN ISN'T WORTH THE LAYTEX I USED MAKING THE MASK I USED TO SAVE HIM.
I'LL TAKE A CHECK.
THE PICTURE NEWS BUILDING, GOTHAM CITY...
YOU'VE REALLY SCREWED IT UP, HAVEN'T YOU, MONROE--?
8
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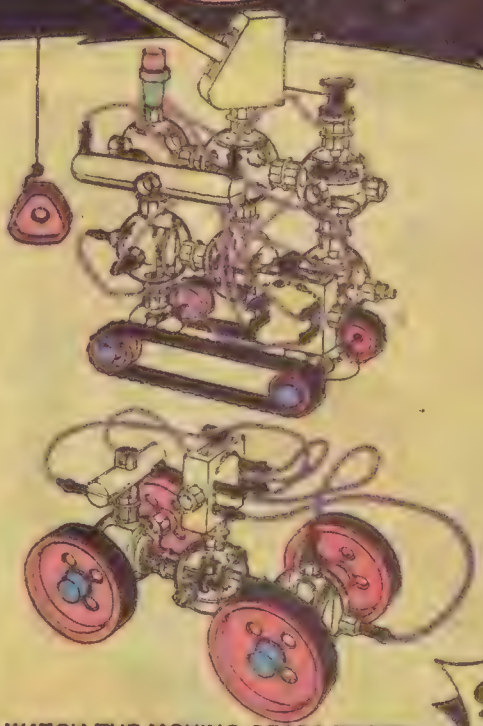

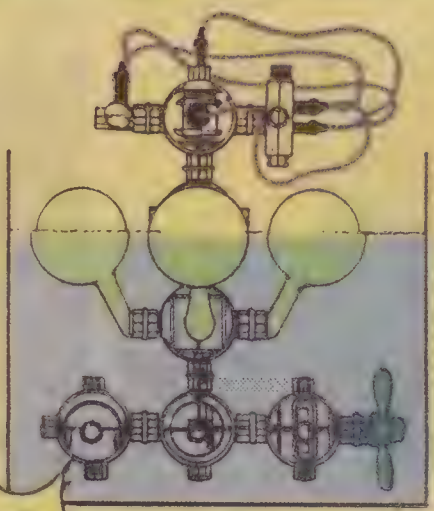

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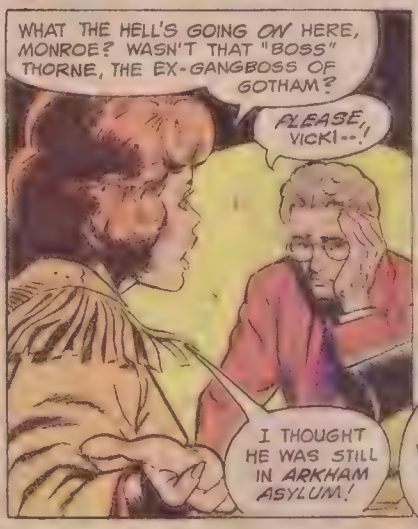
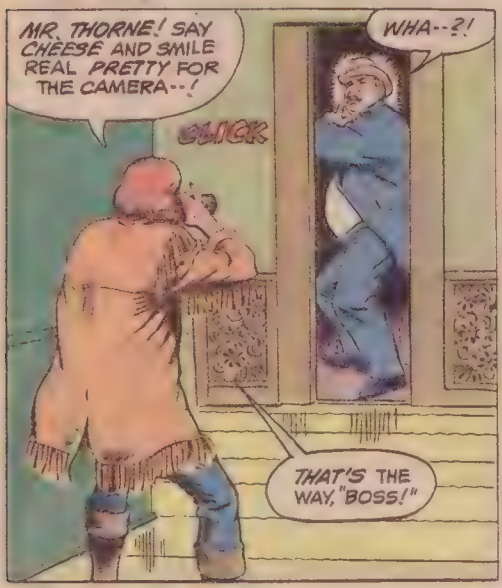
I THOUGHT A MAN SMART ENOUGH TO MAKE IT TO EDITOR OF A NEWSPAPER WOULD HAVE THE BRAINS TO HANDLE THINGS --
--BUT I WAS WRONG! YOU'RE IN IT DEEP NOW, MONROE... VERY DEEP!
L-LET ME EXPLAIN, "BOSS" THORNE--!

EXPLANATIONS I CAN GET FROM ANY TWO-BIT HOOD, FROM YOU I EXPECTED RESULTS! I... HUH?!
VICKI YALE...! WHAT THE DEVIL DO YOU WANT NOW?
YOU CAN FORGET THAT EXPOSÉ ON THE BATMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY, MONROE! MY EVIDENCE HAD MORE HOLES IN IT THAN A SIEVE!

I'LL BE IN TOUCH, MONROE!


WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE, MONROE? WASN'T THAT "BOSS" THORNE, THE EX-GANGBOSS OF GOTHAM?
PLEASE, VICKI--!
I THOUGHT HE WAS STILL IN ARKHAM ASYLUM!

BUT I'M SURE HE WON'T MIND HAVING HIS PICTURE TOOK!


MR. THORNE! SAY CHEESE AND SMILE REAL PRETTY FOR THE CAMERA--!
WHA--?!
CLICK
THAT'S THE WAY, "BOSS!"

DEAR GOD...
...IT'S ALL OVER--

...ALL OVER...

I DON'T SUPPOSE I HAVE TO WONDER WHAT THORNE'S GOT TO HIDE ... EVERYTHING! BUT MORTON MONROE'S OFFICE IS A STRANGE PLACE TO FIND HIM... EH?
DARK
BLANK
T-THAT SOUNDED LIKE A SHOT... FROM MONROE'S OFFICE!
HEY... IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT, MONRO...
OH
CHOKE!
VICKI VALE HAS SEEN DEATH NUMEROUS TIMES IN THE COURSE OF HER CAREER, BUT SHE CAN'T RECALL ONE THAT WAS SO --
--MESSY.
LATER, THAT NIGHT...
HAVE I TOLD YOU HOW LOVELY YOU'RE LOOKING TONIGHT, VICKI?
HUH ... I-I'M SORRY, BRUCE. WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD I'VE SAID SINCE I PICKED YOU UP, LADY! WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
EARLIER THIS EVENING, MY EDITOR, MONROE ... WELL, HE ... HE KILLED HIMSELF. AND GUESS WHO FOUND HIM?
THAT'S TERRIBLE, VICKI. ARE YOU OKAY?
WHY SHOULDN'T I BE ...? I-I'M NOT THE ONE WHO BLEW THEIR BRAINS ALL OVER THE CARPET! I ... THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE TOO--
--ABOUT YOU, BRUCE. IT SOUNDS CRAZY, I KNOW -- BUT I THOUGHT I HAD PROOF YOU WERE THE BATMAN. I FOUND OUT I WAS WRONG--
-- B-BUT I WAS GOING TO PRINT IT IF I WASN'T. ; SOB!
I-I'M SO SORRY, BRUCE... ALL THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR ME! F-FRANKLY, RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH A REAL MESS!
AS LONG AS WE'RE INVOLVED, I CAN'T COMPLAIN!
10

YEAH... I GUESS WE ARE AT THAT.
I-IT'S FUNNY, YOU KNOW. EVER SINCE MY DIVORCE, I'VE HAD THIS... THING ABOUT COMMITMENTS. SO WHY IS IT, FOR YOU, I'M WILLING TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION?
I COULD TAKE A WILD GUESS--!
NO... NOT YET, BRUCE. IT MAY BE TRUE... BUT I DON'T THINK I COULD TAKE HEARING THE WORDS--NOT YET!
THERE'S NO NEED TO HIDE FROM... HUH?!
VICK--DID I MISS SOMETHING--
--OR IS THAT PART OF THE NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT?
BRUCE WAYNE KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION EVEN BEFORE HE GIVES VOICE TO THE THOUGHT--
--AND HE'S NOT ALONE IN REALIZING SOMETHING IS VERY MUCH WRONG!
LOOKS LIKE BAD NEWS... WHICH IS GOOD FOR ME! SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT TO PUT IN A LITTLE OVERTIME WITH MY CAMERA, BRUCE!
CLICK
SINCE I'VE THE ADVANTAGE OF A BUILT-IN DISTRACTION--
--I'D BE FOOLISH NOT TO USE IT!
I WAS RIGHT... IT IS TROUBLE! THAT DIRIGIBLE'S LIFTING THAT NAVY BATTLESHIP FROM THE DOCK LIKE A TOY BOAT...!
NO ONE NOTICES BRUCE WAYNE RUSH FROM THE DECK--
--NOR DO THEY SEE HIM EMERGE, MOMENTS LATER--
--AS THE BATMAN!

HE DOES NOT PAUSE FOR THOUGHT, FOR IN TRUTH... NONE IS NECESSARY.
WITH SKILL THAT COULD COME ONLY FROM YEARS OF PRACTICE UNDER THE MOST TRYING CONDITIONS, THE BATMAN! SENDS HIS BATARANG HURTLING INTO THE SKY..
--AND THOUGH HE KNOWS HE HAS BUT ONE CHANCE FOR SUCCESS, HE DOESN'T FOR AN INSTANT CONTEMPLATE FAILURE.
HE DOESN'T PAUSE!
MADE IT!
WOW! TALK ABOUT BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME!
I'M GETTING SOME INCREDIBLE SHOTS OF THIS, BRUCE...!
...BRUCE--?
BRUCE--!?
HE WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO. I GUESS HE GOT LOST IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT.
WELL, I CAN'T WASTE TIME TRYING TO FIND HIM NOW--
--I'VE GOT SOME HOT PHOTOS THAT NEED PROCESSING...PRONTO!
PILOT! WHAT'RE THE ODDS OF YOUR GETTING ME BACK TO THE DOCKS IN RECORD TIME?
HOP ABOARD THE LAUNCH AND LET'S SEE, MA'AM!

HMMMM--! THIS ISN'T YOUR ORDINARY, GARDEN-VARIETY DIRIGIBLE! CONSIDERING ITS SIZE, IT'S MAKING PRETTY GOOD SPEED!
SO BEFORE I TACKLE WHOEVER'S INSIDE--
--LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DO--
FLASH!
--ABOUT SLOWING HER DOWN A BIT!
EH--?! WHAT'S HAPPENED, SIMPSON...?
W-WE'VE LOST THE PORT ENGINE, SIR! IT JUST... BLEW!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE GAPING LIKE A FOOL, MAN-- IF WE LOSE OUR ENGINES WE'LL BE DEAD IN THE AIR... SITTING DUCKS!
YOU MEN... SUIT UP AND GET OUT THERE!
I WANT THAT ENGINE REPAIRED ON THE DOUBLE--
"--AND A FULL REPORT ON WHAT WENT WRONG!"
THAT CAN BE SUMMONED UP IN TWO WORDS...!
THAT'S ONE DOWN, ONE TO GO!
MY MINIATURIZED LASER OUGHT TO MAKE SHORT WORK OF THIS ENGINE AS WELL, AND THEN I CAN FIND OUT WHO CONCOCTED THIS INSANE SCHEME!

AT THAT MOMENT, ATOP THE ZEPPELIN...
MAKE SURE YOUR SAFETY LINE'S GOOD AND SECURE! THE COLONEL WANTS THIS DONE FAST!
YEAH? THEN HOW'CUM HE AIN'T OUT HERE RISKIN' HIS NECK CRAWLIN' ALL OVER THIS BIG BALLOON...?
QUIT YOUR GRIPIN', MAN! YOU GOT THE TOOLS?
HUH?!
FORGET THE TOOLS--
--WE AIN'T GONNA BE NEEDIN' 'EM FOR THIS JOB AFTER ALL!
I JUST SPOTTED ME THE ENGINE TROUBLE BELOW--
--AND HE'S ABOUT TO TAKE THE QUICK WAY DOWN!
OOOOOFF!
IT CATCHES THE BATMAN BY SURPRISE, AND CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES--
SURPRISES ARE THE LAST [illegible] HE CAN AFFORD!
UUHH! I'M ABOUT 30 SECONDS AWAY FROM BECOMING A MEMORY--
--UNLESS I CAN PULL THE RIGHT ITEM FROM MY UTILITY BELT!
GOT IT!
NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET, THOUGH! STILL HAVE TO SEE IF I CAN APPLY--
--THE AIR BRAKES!
HOLD, BLAST YOU... HOLD!
IT DOES.
14

BUT THE QUESTION REMAINS... FOR HOW LONG?
NICE MOVE, BATMAN... FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH--
--WHICH AIN'T MUCH! I DON'T FIGURE YOU CAN HANG THERE VERY LONG EVEN IF I WAS TO LEAVE YOU ALONE--
--BUT DON'T COUNT ON THAT HAPPENIN', HERO!
JAKE... SIMPSON... LOWER DOWN ONE'A THE SOUNDING WEIGHTS, WILLYA?
WHAT THE HELL DOES HE WANT THIS FOR, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD? WE'VE GOT TOO MUCH ALTITUDE TO NEED IT--?
I AIN'T GONNA USE IT TO MEASURE OUR ALTITUDE, THAT'S FOR SURE!
'SIDES, IT'S GOT OTHER USES, Y'KNOW... LIKE SWATTIN' BATS OFF'A THE SIDE!
UH-OH!
LOCKS LIKE THE REST PERIOD'S ABOUT OVER--!
HEY LOOKIT WHAT I BRUNG YOU, HERO ... A PRESENT!
HERE IT COMES--
15

--CATCH!
MISSED--BUT JUST BARELY!
THAT THING'S GOT TO WEIGH AT LEAST 50 POUNDS--! IF IT CONNECTS, I'M AS GOOD AS SPLATTERED ACROSS THE CITY BELOW!
SO THE TRICK IS TO MAKE SURE--
--IT DOESN'T CONNECT!
FZZZT!
THE MINIATURE LASER HUMS BRIEFLY IN THE BATMAN'S HAND--
--AND THE RESULT IS EXPLOSIVE, TO SAY THE LEAST...!
KER-BLEW!
ITS ENGINE DEAD, THE GIANT LIGHTER-THAN-AIR CRAFT CANTS WILDLY IN THE AIR, ITS BALANCE MOMENTARILY UPSET--
16

--AS IS ITS COMMANDER AND CREW...
HELMSMAN! SHUT ALL ENGINES... NOW! GET HER UNDER CONTROL!
AYE AYE, COLONEL BLIMP!
CURSE THOSE INCOMPETENT FOOLS!
CAN'T I EVEN TRUST THEM TO TAKE CARE OF A SIMPLE LITTLE PROBLEM--?
WHEW! GOOD THING MY SAFETY LINE HELD OR I WOULD'A WOUND UP TAKIN' THE EXPRESS LANE DOWN!
I BETTER SEE IF... HA! WELL, WELL... WHAT'D YOU KNOW--! LOOKS LIKE BATMAN WASN'T SO LUCKY! HA HA HA HA!
HEY, YOU GUYS! GIMME A HAND UP, WILLYA--?
I'M DONE WITH THE "REPAIRS"--LEAST-WAYS, THE BATMAN'S FINISHED! HAHA!
SO, IT WAS THE BATMAN INTERFERING, WAS IT? YOU'RE CERTAIN HE'S GONE--?
YESSIR, COLONEL! NO WAY HE COULD'A HUNG ON WHEN WE STARTED PITCHIN' AROUND. BATMAN'S GONE AWRIGHT--
BEEP BEEP BEEP
17
"--GONE WITHOUT A TRACE!"

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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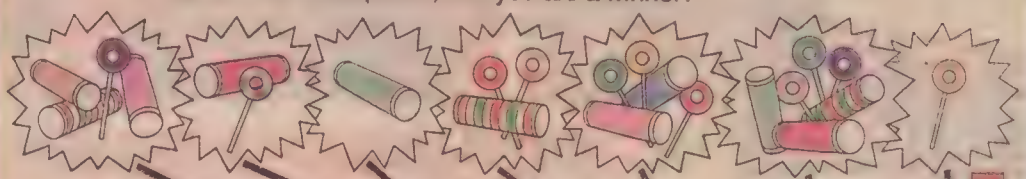

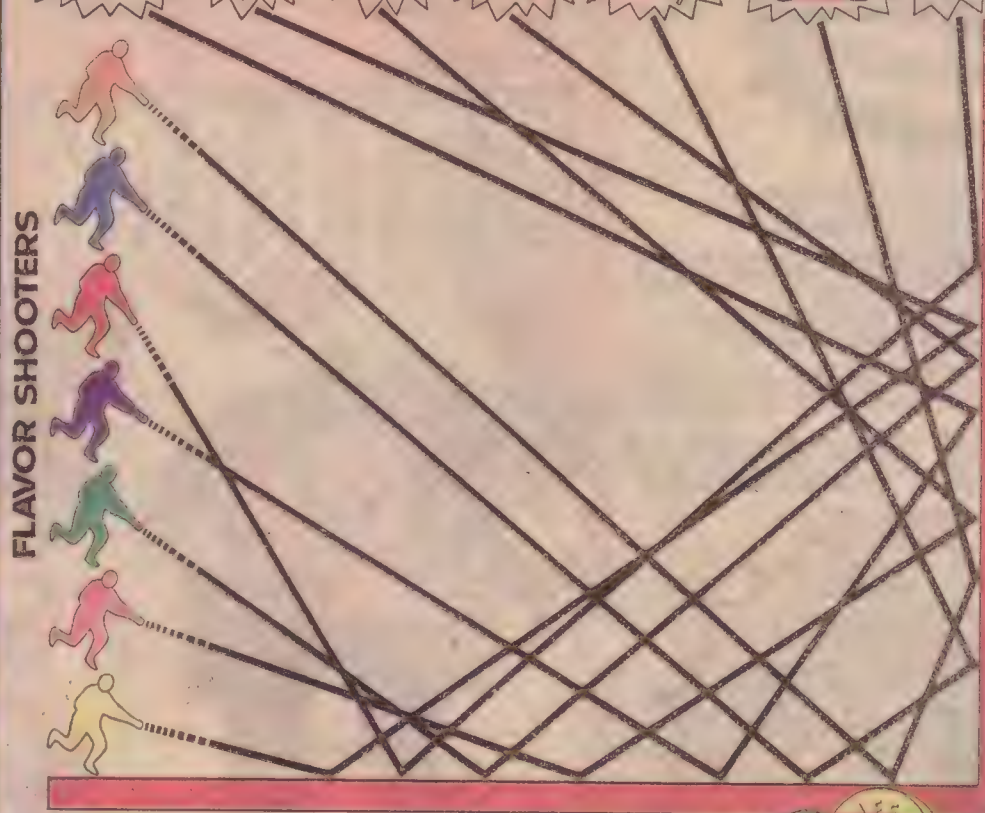

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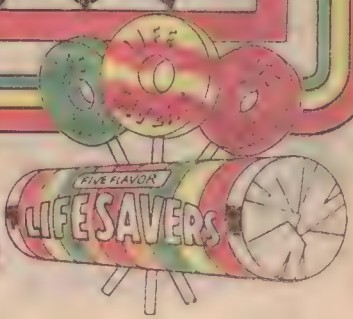

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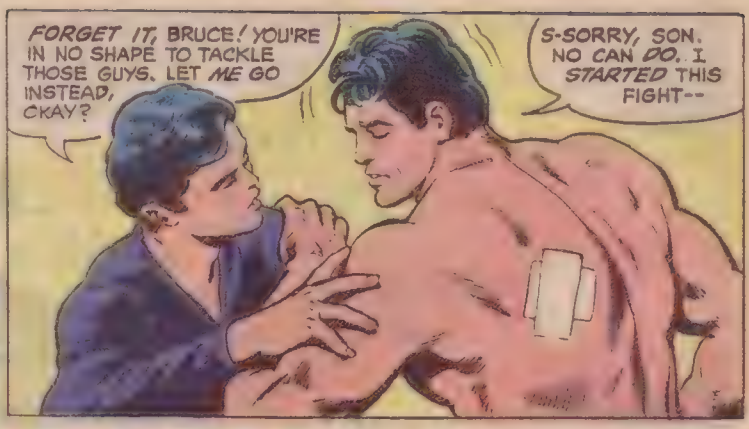
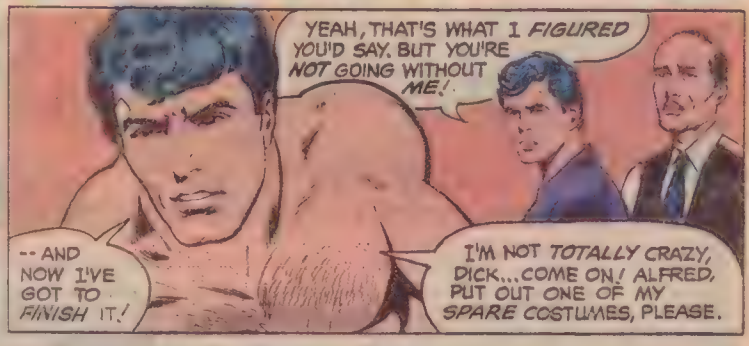
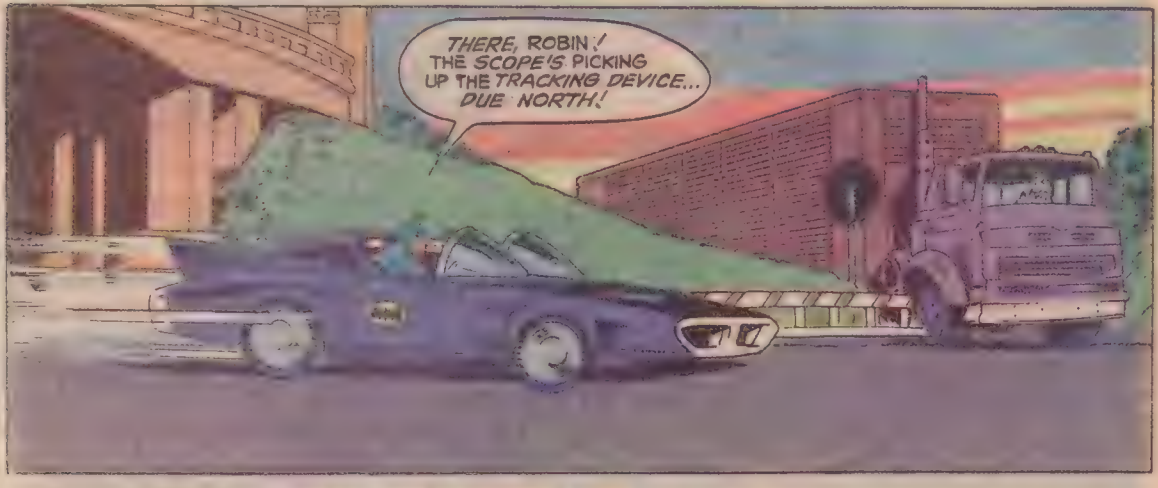
...UH...A-ALFRED...
GRACIOUS! MASTER BRUCE...?
...I-I...C-COULD USE... A-A HAND, OLD...FRIEND...
MASTER BRUCE!
MORE TIME PASSES, BUT HE IS HARDLY AWARE OF IT... UNTIL...
...F-FALLING... HAVE TO... TO... HUH?!
ALFRED--DICK--! OF COURSE... I MADE IT HOME, DIDN'T I.!
YEAH--BUT FROM THE LOOKS OF YOU, JUST BARELY!
YOU REALLY HAD US WORRIED THERE FOR A WHILE, BRUCE.! YOU WERE MUMBLING SOMETHING ABOUT A ZEPPELIN WHILE YOU WERE OUT OF IT.!
FROM WHAT WE HEARD ON THE RADIO BEFORE, I CAN GUESS WHAT THAT'S ALL ABOUT--I ALSO FIGURED YOU PROBABLY GOT INTO THE ACT.
THAT I DID, DICK...OOOFF! LORD, I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN THROUGH A THRASHER.!
I GUESS I WAS AT THAT. I WAS TOSSED OVERBOARD SOMEWHERE AROUND 150 FEET UP..
"..BUT I GOT LUCKY! THE HI-JACKED BATTLESHIP WAS CLOSE ENOUGH BELOW THAT I WAS ABLE TO LAND ON ITS DECK WITHOUT BREAKING MY NECK--
"..USING MY CAPE TO SLOW MY FALL."

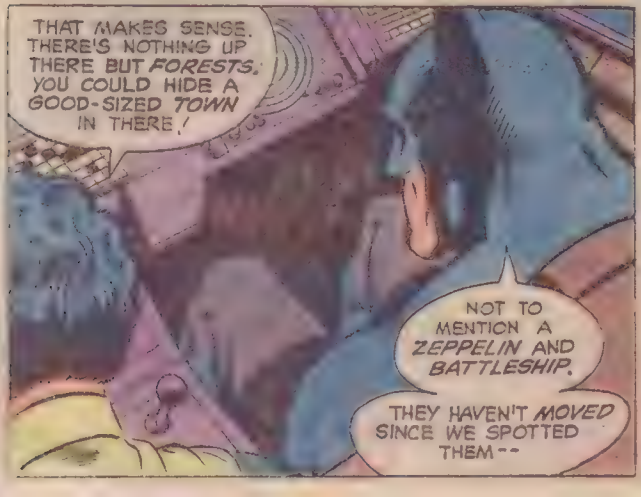
"I STILL WASN'T OUT OF THE WOODS, THOUGH. THE ZEPPELIN WAS GAINING ALTITUDE AND I WAS IN NO MOOD TO TAKE A RIDE!
"I WAS ABLE TO LOWER THE SHIP'S ANCHOR--
"..WHICH WOULD HAVE MADE AN EXCELLENT ESCAPE ROUTE...EXCEPT FOR ONE DETAIL--!
"IT WAS ABOUT 40 FEET SHORT OF THE GROUND!
"BUT BY THEN WE WERE OUTSIDE THE CITY AND I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HITTING SOLID GROUND.
"SO I SWUNG MYSELF INTO THE TREETOPS.
"THE BRANCHES BROKE MY FALL, SLOWING ME JUST ENOUGH SO I'M STILL AROUND TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT--
"--THOUGH IT'S NOT AN ACTIVITY I'D HIGHLY RECOMMEND!
"I CRAWLED OUT INTO A CLEARING JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE ZEPPELIN DISAPPEAR INTO THE NIGHT.
THEY'D GOTTEN AWAY--
--BUT THEY HADN'T ESCAPED!"

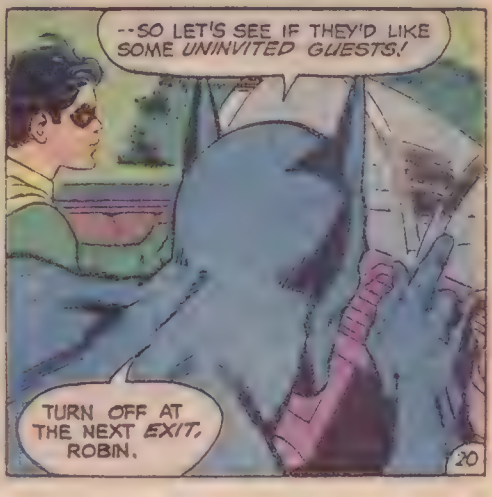
SHEESH! TALK ABOUT NARROW ESCAPES--! YOU'RE LUCKY YOU... HEY!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
WHERE DO YOU THINK, DICK? I'VE GOT TO... SEE A MAN ABOUT A... BALLOON!


FORGET IT, BRUCE! YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE TO TACKLE THOSE GUYS. LET ME GO INSTEAD, OKAY?
S-SORRY, SON. NO CAN DO. I STARTED THIS FIGHT--


YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED YOU'D SAY. BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING WITHOUT ME!
-- AND NOW I'VE GOT TO FINISH IT!
I'M NOT TOTALLY CRAZY, DICK...COME ON, ALFRED, PUT OUT ONE OF MY SPARE COSTUMES, PLEASE.


THERE, ROBIN! THE SCOPE'S PICKING UP THE TRACKING DEVICE... DUE NORTH!


THAT MAKES SENSE. THERE'S NOTHING UP THERE BUT FORESTS. YOU COULD HIDE A GOOD-SIZED TOWN IN THERE!
NOT TO MENTION A ZEPPELIN AND BATTLESHIP.
THEY HAVEN'T MOVED SINCE WE SPOTTED THEM--


--SO LET'S SEE IF THEY'D LIKE SOME UNINVITED GUESTS!
TURN OFF AT THE NEXT EXIT, ROBIN.

WHERE TO NOW, FEARLESS LEADER?
DEAD AHEAD. THE SIGNAL'S GETTING STRONGER.
THAT'S A MITE OFF THE BEATEN PATH--
--WHICH CALLS FOR A SLIGHT MODIFICATION IN OUR LITTLE BUGGY--
--FROM YOUR AVERAGE, EVERYDAY BATMOBILE--
--TO OFF-THE-ROAD VEHICLE ...THANKS TO THE WONDERS OF HYDRAULIC SUSPENSION!
PRETTY NIFTY GIZMO, BATMAN. MAYBE WE OUGHT TO SPECIALIZE IN WILDERNESS TRACKINGS FROM NOW ON.!
I'LL STICK TO THE CITY IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU. THERE AREN'T MANY PLACES TO HOOK A BATROPE AROUND HERE.
SUIT YOURSELF, PARTNER. MYSELF, I'M THINKING OF GETTING A LOIN-CLOTH AND--
--AND... HOO-BOY!

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE OF COMICS

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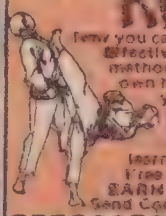

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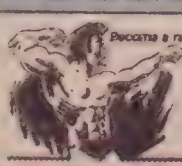

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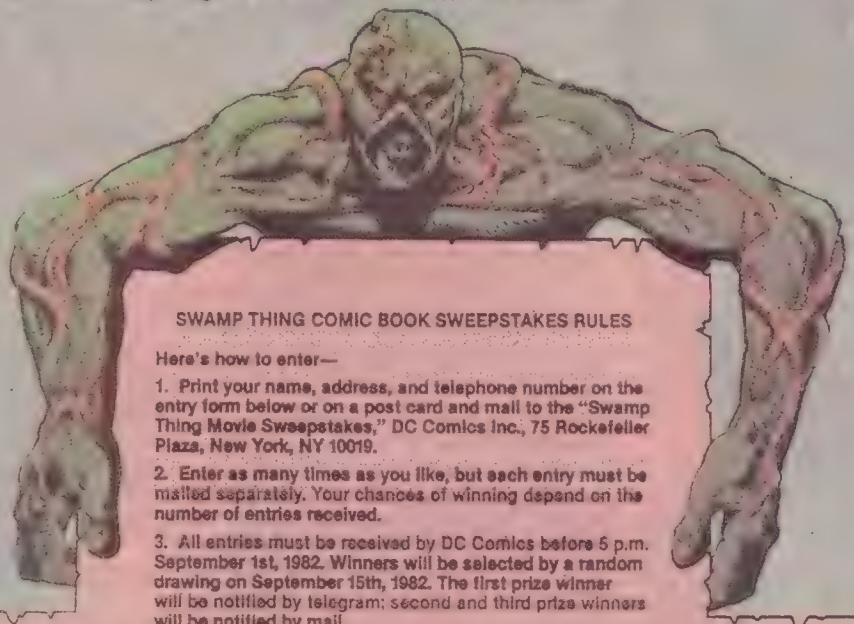
DC's set it again! Another of our comic book stars has made his way to big-screen stardom, and we're celebrating by throwing a sweepstakes so that you can share in our excitement!!

The entry details are outlined below, but we just wanted to tell ya that the Grand Prize is an expenses-paid trip to New York! We'll fly you and your companion to the Big Apple; put you up in one of New York's finest hotels; and give you a tour of the place where Swamp Thing and our other exciting characters are created—DC's own New York offices!

And even if you don't win the **Grand Prize**, we are also giving away 100 free subscriptions to our Swamp Thing comic book and 100 free copies of Tor Books' official adaptation of the Swamp Thing movie!

So don't delay, enter today! Swamp Thing might be our much-maligned mockery of a man, but this is no mockery; this is the real thing!



SWAMP THING COMIC BOOK SWEEPSTAKES RULES

Here's how to enter—

1. Print your name, address, and telephone number on the entry form below or on a post card and mail to the "Swamp Thing Movie Sweepstakes," DC Comics Inc., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019.

2. Enter as many times as you like, but each entry must be mailed separately. Your chances of winning depend on the number of entries received.

3. All entries must be received by DC Comics before 5 p.m. September 1st, 1982. Winners will be selected by a random drawing on September 15th, 1982. The first prize winner will be notified by telegram; second and third prize winners will be notified by mail.

4. First prize is a trip for two to New York, including air transportation, hotel accommodations for three days and two nights, free tickets to a Broadway show, and a personal tour of DC Comics! First prize winner must be available during October of 1982 to take the trip. If the first prize winner is a minor, his or her companion for the trip must be his or her parent or guardian.

5. There will be 100 second prizes: a year's subscription to our regular Swamp Thing comic book! There will also be 100 third prizes: the official adaptation of the Swamp Thing movie!

6. There will be no prize substitutions. Only one prize per person is allowed.

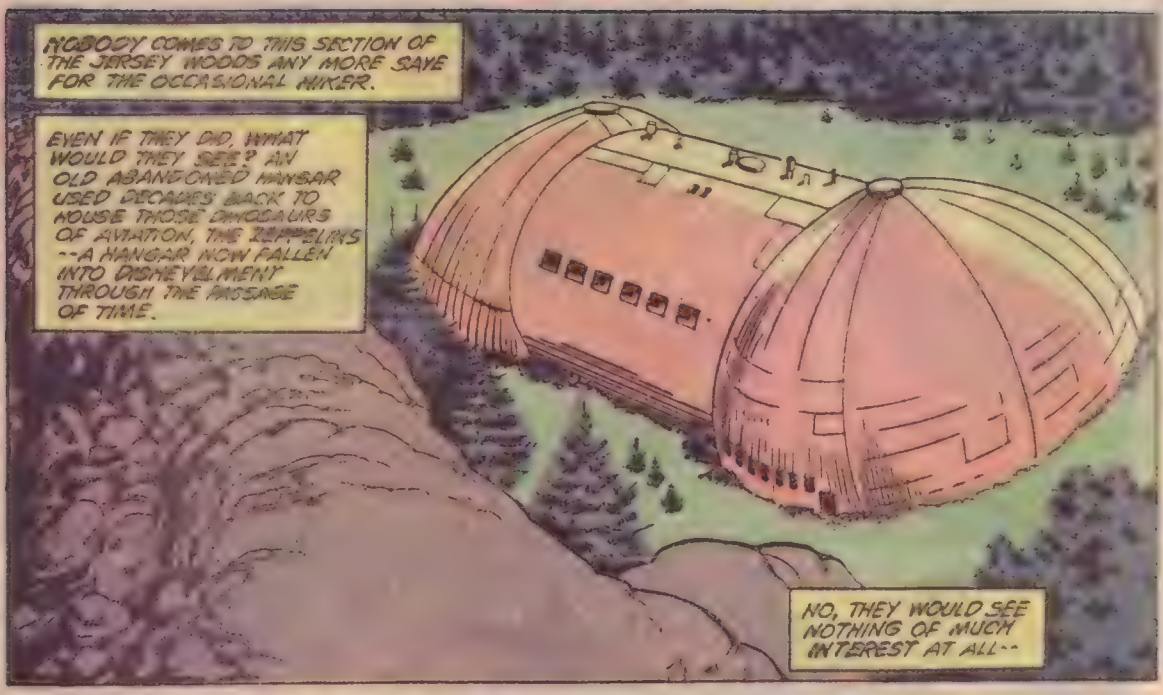
7. Employees of Warner Communications Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliates, and DC Comic's freelance writers, artists, colorists and letterers, its commercial purchasers, and the immediate families of all these people are not eligible to enter the sweepstakes.

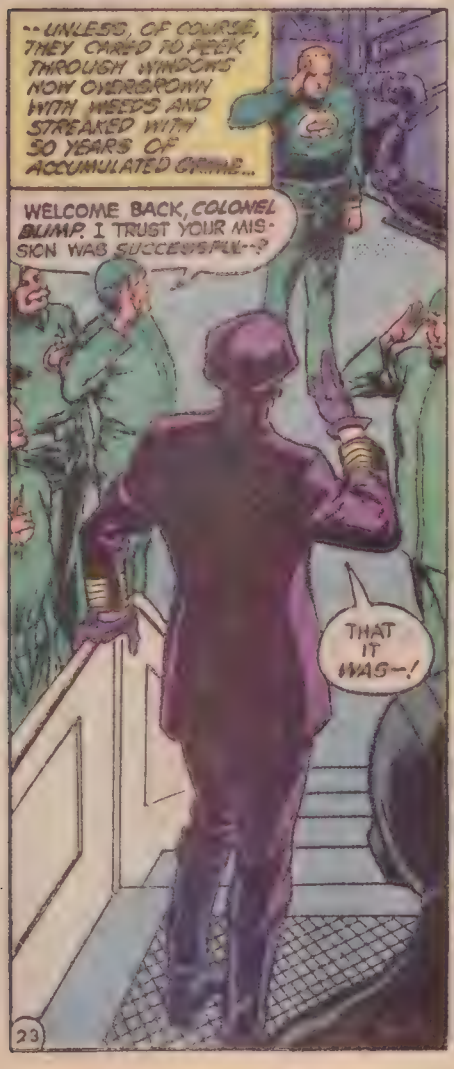
8. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Sweepstakes void in Florida, New York, and Rhode Island and wherever prohibited by law. Only U.S. residents may enter. Prize winners are responsible for any applicable taxes.

9. Winners may be asked to consent to the use of their names and pictures in advertising.

10. A list of winners will be provided to those who send a SASE to the address listed in Rule #1.

LOOKS LIKE WE WERE EXPECTED, PAL! BETTER GET READY TO--
KLIK!
--BAIL OUT!
KAH-BLOOOM!
A LAND-MINE!
AND HOW! THOSE GUYS ARE PLAYING FOR KEEPS, BATMAN.
WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE?
WE'VE STILL GOT THE PORTABLE TRACER, CHUM--
--AND FROM THE WAY IT'S GOING NOW, I'D SAY OUR SUBJECTS ARE--
--NEARBY!
THE HOMING DEVICE... EMBEDDED IN THAT TREE! BLAST!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN! MAN, WERE WE TAKEN FOR SUCKERS! THEY MUST'VE DISCOVERED IT AND LEFT IT HERE FOR US TO FIND... ALONG WITH THE LAND-MINE!
WAIT!
WE HAVEN'T BEEN THINKING ROBIN. THERE'S AN EASIER WAY TO FIND THEM...
22


NOBODY COMES TO THIS SECTION OF THE JERSEY WOODS ANY MORE SAVE FOR THE OCCASIONAL HIKER.
EVEN IF THEY DID, WHAT WOULD THEY SEE? AN OLD ABANDONED HANGAR USED DECADES BACK TO HOUSE THOSE DINOSAURS OF AVIATION, THE ZEPPELINS --A HANGAR NOW FALLEN INTO DISHEVELMENT THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF TIME.
NO, THEY WOULD SEE NOTHING OF MUCH INTEREST AT ALL--


--UNLESS, OF COURSE, THEY CARED TO PEEK THROUGH WINDOWS NOW OVERGROWN WITH WEEDS AND STREAKED WITH 50 YEARS OF ACCUMULATED GRIME...
WELCOME BACK, COLONEL BLIMP. I TRUST YOUR MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL--?
THAT IT WAS--!

TODAY WE PROVED THE WORTHINESS OF THE LIGHTER-THAN-AIR CRAFT BY EFFORTLESSLY SNATCHING THEIR MOST MODERN WEAPONS AND SLAYING THE BOTHERSOME BATMAN! BUT HEAR ME, YOU MEN--TODAY WAS ALSO JUST THE BEGINNING--
--FOR I SHALL MAKE THOSE BLIND FOOLS PAY FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE!
OH, HOW THEY SHALL PAY!
THE ACTION CONTINUES IN DETECTIVE #519-- ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS!

Dear Dick, Trevor, and Pablo,

Oh, yes! This is the kind of Batman I like to see. Weird angles, odd shadows, heroic postures. And the stories...

"The Shadow of the Batman" had everything: great art, terrific script, and (most important) a fine concept.

I enjoyed the way the two boys resolved an important ethical problem. I also realize that Jeff's motivation in finding a job is as much fear as the desire to make an honest living. I find it comforting, though, that his remorse about Henry's death is the spark that brings about the final resolution to his problem.

Fear of the Batman may be his first motivation, but his feelings about Henry are the ones that will stay with him the longest. Fear can only be a catalyst in such a situation when the one who experiences the fear is also capable of love.

When I reread the above, it seems sort of odd to comment on the trio of mini-mysteries that closed out BATMAN #347. Still, I enjoyed them immensely.

All in all, Batman #347 was one incredibly fine comic.

More please.

Sheldon A. Wiebe
8535 47 Ave. N.W.
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Dear Dick,

Check the stands...BATMAN #347. Great... Rats! No Colan and Thomas. Guess I'm stuck with some boring fill-in story... What does the artist think he's doing, anyway? That goofy, jagged panel arrangement... Trevor Von Eeden? Doesn't even look like his art. And *Roger Slifer*? Read this book last.

Hey...quite a different sort of Batman story... the current headlines-social commentary plot... ghetto scenes... the improbable and breathtaking things the artist does with the Batman's cape. Seems like Denny O'Neil and Neal Adams at work eleven years ago! But no—"The Shadow of the Batman" manages to be of a grand old tradition *and* original. And those jagged panels work, too, just like Slifer's brittle syntax. What was that great passage again?... Oh, yeah:

"Someone reached for a lamp—

"And was SHOT!

"For a time there was only confusion.

"Everyone shouting. Everyone shooting."

Brrr! A special effect if I ever read one. Short, implacable sentences. Not O'Neil—Hemingway in "The Killers"! And it's like the artist and the writer worked side by side in creating the brooding atmosphere. Comparable to Frank Miller's DAREDEVIL, almost... But would Miller's tormented Gothic style have been capable of the gritty little details like the broken glass, the smoggy night sky, the grim faces?

The Batman's "misstep" in the woods. Aha, I see... the gentle irony of that word "misstep" tricks *us* into missing those baby rabbits. The Batman doesn't step clumsily on a twig but avoids the bunnies deliberately, even though this compassionate act exposes him to mortal danger. O'Neil would have made sure that the reader got the point, but Slifer saves it as a pleasant surprise for the story's second, more careful reading.

And the most effective "special effect" of all? That one person tells this tale to another as we eavesdrop. Breathless voices, long shadows, dim light, heroic deeds... Yes, exactly the right ingredients of a legend.

Sigh. Terrific, simply terrific. Must write congratulations to the BAT SIGNALS.

But after the sneak attack of this issue, how on earth can I write a coherent critical letter?

Emily Flum
2203 Ivy Lane
Findlay, OH 45840

Emily, your letter was typical of many letters we received from readers who, when they bought ish #347 and found that it did not fit into the regular continuity, were certain that it would be bad. Until they read it. Our feeling here at DC is that just because a story happens to be by someone who is not the regular team on the book, there's no reason why such an issue can't be just as special. We're glad you liked it.

As the author of that story (yes, this is a "fill-in" letter's column, also), I was happy to be placed in the artistic company you mentioned. Although I wouldn't compare myself to Hemingway (I'm not yet writing scripts from the top of my refrigerator), I was glad you perceived some similarities to O'Neil and Adams' work on the series, as theirs were my own personal favorites of the Batman stories that have ever been done. And it was the mood and atmosphere that they captured so well that I hoped Trevor and myself would be able to duplicate. Thanks again.

Dear Dick and Co.,

I've never written before, but felt I must write after reading your latest issue, BATMAN #347. This was really an offbeat issue, and one that I thoroughly enjoyed. Rather novel (no pun intended) to have a story where the Batman himself doesn't go after any new bad guys, go through any new life crises, and is not even aware of the events transpiring. As one who works every day with delinquents, the story was of special interest to me. One of the most common traits of the kids I work with is the tendency to not think things through and realize their effects—sometimes indirect, but nonetheless real—on others. Many have difficulty realizing how much their actions really *do* hurt others (not to mention themselves). This is something your story brought out, and maybe it's the difference between one who choses to be a delinquent, and one who turns away from that path.

I realize your main intent is to entertain, and you certainly accomplished this, but it's nice once in a while to find a message, too.

Richard Vaught
344 Rogers Rd.
Adrian, MI 49221

People,

Let me be succinct. When you put together the "Year's 10 Best" for DC Digest at the end of 1982, make sure that "The Shadow of the Batman" from BATMAN #347 is at the very top of the list.

I can pay you no greater honor.

John A. Wilcox
40 Hales Court
Westport, CI 06880

Dear Editor,

I have just read the best Batman story ever written! Englehart and O'Neil are great, but "The Shadow of the

Batman" far surpassed their classics. This is the spirit which is the character! This is the legend of the great comics character which will never die! This is the meaning of the Batman, and this is the Best! Roger Slifer is forever in my gratitude and an extra special thanks to Trevor Von Eeden and Pablo Marcos for bringing back that artistic essence of the original Batman. Gentlemen, this is a classic which shall never be outdone!

The Just-a-Moment Mysteries featuring Batman, Bruce Wayne and Alfred were exceptional. I greatly enjoy this short feature as well as the art by Von Eeden and Larry Mahlstedt. Please bring us more of both!

Kent A. Phenis
1321 North Meridian St.
Apartment 913
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dear Dick, Roger, Trevor, et al,

Thank you for pulling a string in my heart with your eloquently choreographed tale in BATMAN #347. Of the eight to twelve comics I buy per month, usually I get one I feel I have to write a letter about. Of course, I never do, but the last half year of BATMAN has been so excellent (more so than usual) that with the publication of BATMAN #347, I just cannot bear the thought of NOT writing. #347 was a superb tale, interestingly told not from the viewpoint of the Batman or some other law-abiding person, but from a criminal, a ne'er-do-well. This story illustrated the human qualities present in any given person no matter how criminally inclined they may be. In this day and age crime skyrockets while everything good seems to be packing it in.

The human spirit is a fragile thing, broken very easily. When will the bad guys realize that they're not stealing money or jewels... they're taking away the human spirit, the will to want to survive in a world that won't give, a world that's as black and cold as a statue in the park. Frankly, I think that is the ultimately horrible crime, yet it goes unpunished.

Indeed, we all have that human spirit within us; that one spark of compassion, but as soon as that spark is extinguished, so is mankind. Will an open protest in a comic book actually make this world any better? For that I have an answer. No, but it will contribute to the constant, fervent fight waging between the forces of good and bad. I agree... the legend does live on, my only wish is that someday the legends will out-number the wrong-doers, and bring humanity its long and wearily awaited peace.

Michael W. Redhill
104 Old Colony Rd.
Willowdale, Ontario
CANADA M2L 2K2

There's no better sentiment upon which to end this letter column, except for two notes of thanks; the first to Paul Levitz for giving me the go-ahead to write "The Shadow of the Batman" after I initially proposed the idea, and the second to Dick Giordano for deciding to publish it when he became the BATMAN editor. Dick's famous for his editorial sensitivity and now I know why.

—Roger Slifer

SUPERMAN #376—"The Ozone-Master Comes Calling," and it may require Perry White's very last super-cigar to stop him! By Elliot SI Maggin, Curt Swan and Dan Adkins. Also in the bonus second feature, in a pre-quel to her daring new adventures, Supergirl visits with her cousin to ask his advice. By Paul Kupperberg, Carmine Infantino and Bob Oksner. Cover by Rich Buckler and Frank Giacoia.

THE FLASH #314—A full-length story by Cary Bates, Carmine Infantino and Dennis Jensen. Somebody named The Resolver is going around Central City cleaning up its crime problem... by acting as judge, jury, and executioner! Cover by Infantino and Giacoia.

G.I. COMBAT #246—Jeb and the General lead the Haunted Tank into more battle excitement! Cover by Joe Kubert.

THE NEW TEEN TITANS #24—The continuing story of the Omega Men and the search for Starfire leads the Titans to Tamaran, the Citadel Empire, and the middle of intergalactic war! By Marv Wolfman, George Perez and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Perez.

THE SAGA OF THE SWAMP THING #6—A shambling mockery of a man, written and drawn as only Marty Pasko and Tom Yeates can. Mike W. Barr and Dan Spiegle contribute the Phantom Stranger story. Cover by Yeates.

ON SALE JULY 15TH

WARLORD #62—Jan Duursema pencils Mike Grell's "Cry Wolf!" Rostov returns. And this is the last Arion back feature in Warlord, as the Atlantean mage begins his own title next month. Duursema art, Kupperberg story. Cover by Grell.

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #191—Another team book by the team of Mishkin & Cohn, this time co-starring the Batman's deadliest enemy—the Joker! Art by Jim Aparo. And Cary Burkett and Dan Spiegle bring Nemesis closer to his ultimate confrontation with the Council. Cover by Jim Aparo.

THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY #309—With I...VAMPIRE by Bruce Jones and Tom Sutton, and other such eerie things.

GREEN LANTERN #157—Keith Pollard's superb pencil craftsmanship highlights this issue. In a story written by Mike W. Barr and inked by Mike De Carlo, Hector Hammond escapes from paralysis and tracks GL through space—to destroy him! TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS is by Paul Kupperberg and Irv Novick. Cover is by Pollard.

BATMAN ANNUAL #8—In a gripping story written by Mike W. Barr and shot from the pencils of blossoming star-artist Trevor Von Eeden, Batman comes to the rescue of Gotham City when the Messiah of the Crimson Sun demands it pay him homage or suffer the consequences. His threat is no idle one, either: he's already incinerated every man, woman and child in one small village to prove his power! Come the final confrontation, either the Batman or his foe will meet that same fate—and you won't believe the ending! A stupendous annual! Cover by Von Eeden.

THE NIGHT FORCE #3—Fast on the heels of the events of last issue, Baron Winters is able to enlist the aid of Donovan Brown and Jack Gold. In order to do it, he's got to get Jack Gold fired! The search for Vanessa takes them to England in this third chapter of the saga by Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan and Bob Smith. Cover by Colan and Giordano.

SGT. ROCK #369—Rock of Easy Co. stars in "Too Easy To Die" by Robert Kanigher and Frank Redondo. Also: "Death Dive At Dunkirk" by Jack Arata and "Big Game" by Bill Kelly and Tom Mandrake.

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #292—The third part of the Great Darkness saga finds the Legionnaires on Zerox, the Sorcerer's Planet. Dream Girl foresees the Legionnaires defeat at the hands of the Servants of Darkness, even as the Legionnaires find the key they need to insure victory—if only they could figure out how to use it! By Paul Levitz, Keith Giffen and Larry Mahlstedt. Cover by Giffen.

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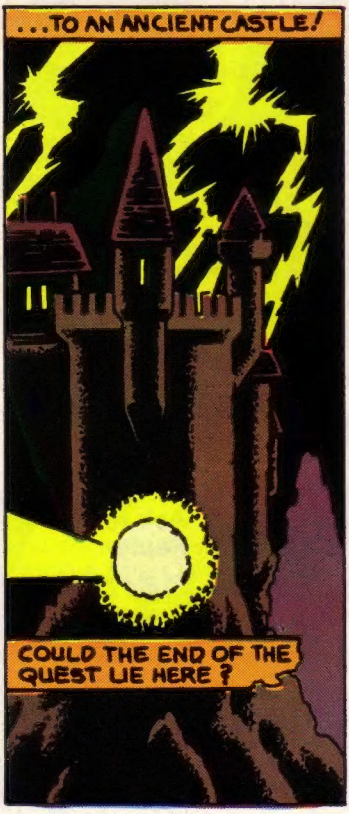

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